

**Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP) – Proposed
Findings/Goals/Objectives/Policies/Recommendations**

Finding: A finding is a summary statement based on the background that provides context for the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Recommendations.

Goal: A goal describes an ideal future state and is long-term

Objective: An objective describes an intermediate step toward attaining a goal; it should be achievable, measurable, and time-specific

Policy: A policy is an action that helps achieve the goal

Recommendation: A recommendation is a suggestion that helps achieve the goal and objective

Agriculture

Findings

F-1 Most of the soils in the Delta are designated “prime” and are of statewide value for agriculture

F-2 Consumer trends, new crops, and new uses for crops will continue to change the face of Delta agriculture

F-2 Changes to Delta agriculture could come from additional soil subsidence, regional restoration programs, and climate change.

F-3 Seasonal flooding in fall and winter has traditionally been carried out to serve several purposes: provision of seasonal habitat and hunting, weed control, leaching of soils, and control of oxidation of peat soils.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: A vibrant agricultural sector that is the foundation of the Delta primary zone economy

Objective 1.1: Agriculture and value-added processing as the predominant economic driver in the Delta primary zone

Policy 1.1.1: Support agriculture in the Delta as a key element in the region’s economy

Policy 1.1.2: Local governments shall maintain the necessary plans and ordinances to maximize viable agricultural practices, reduce subdivision of agricultural lands, and support agricultural production in the Delta

Policy 1.1.3: Support agricultural tourism and recreation as a means of maintaining the agricultural economy of the Delta

Policy 1.1.4: Support value-added commercial agricultural processing for crops grown in the Delta

Policy 1.1.5: Facilitate incentives and programs that improve agricultural conditions such as soil subsidence reversal and ecosystem services that benefit agriculture

Policy 1.1.6: Encourage management of agricultural lands that also provide benefits to wildlife habitat through wildlife friendly farming techniques

Recommendations

R-1 Retain and strengthen local government programs that support agriculture in the Delta. These could include:

- (a) an urban limit line;
- (b) minimum parcel size consistent with local agricultural practices and needs;
- (c) strict subdivision regulations regarding subdivision of agricultural lands to ensure that subdivided lands will continue to contain agriculturally-oriented land uses;
- (d) adequate buffers between agricultural and non-agricultural land uses, particularly residential development outside but adjacent to the Primary Zone;
- (e) an agriculture element of the general plan;
- (f) a Right-to-Farm ordinance; and
- (g) a conservation easement program.

R-2 Provide education and outreach opportunities about the value of Delta agriculture and its history.

R-3: Ensure that those proposing new development provide appropriate buffer areas to prevent conflicts between any proposed use and existing adjacent agricultural parcels. Buffers shall adequately protect integrity of land for existing and future agricultural uses and shall not include uses that conflict with agricultural operations on adjacent agricultural lands. Appropriate buffer setbacks shall be determined in consultation with local Agricultural Commissioners, and shall be based on applicable general plan policies.

Flood Protection

Findings

F-1 Many Delta levees were originally built atop low natural levees along the waterways. The levees were built of available material, without engineered designs. Since that time federal, State, and local agencies have worked to fund repair and maintenance.

F-2 Stressors to Delta levees include overtopping, burrowing animals, subsidence, erosion and slumping, and additional loading from changing hydrologic patterns and sea level rise due to climate change.

F-3 The cost of constructing and maintaining the levees was the sole responsibility of the landowners until 1973, when the State developed cost share programs to assist landowners.

F-4 For non-project levees to be eligible for federal assistance in a Presidentially-declared disaster, reclamation districts must design and maintain levee to the PL 84-99 standards and comply with associated USACE Engineering Technical Letters. The State established a design standard in DWR Bulletin 192-82 that provides 100-year flood protection.

F-5 Flood protection increasingly includes structural and non-structural programs to reduce the likelihood of loss of life and property and provide education and outreach to those in flood areas.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: Improvement, increased capacity to accomplish emergency repair, and long-term maintenance of Delta levees.

Objective 1.1: Levee maintenance, rehabilitation, and improvement to safeguard the land uses consistent with protecting and enhancing the Delta

Policy 1.1.1: Support a minimum Delta-specific levee design standard as established by DWR Bulletin 192-82 for rural levees and the FEMA 65-10 standard for urban levees.

Policy 1.1.2: Encourage coordination between local, State, and federal governments for flood protection programs.

Policy 1.1.3: Seek funding for and support programs to make cost-effective levee investments.

Policy 1.1.4: Support programs for emergency levee repair and response.

Policy 1.1.5: Support stockpiling of levee emergency response supplies for use by Local Maintaining Agencies. Maintain sites for the storage of dredged material from ship channels within the Delta and use of dredged material for levee operations, repair, and maintenance

Policy 1.1.6: Support in-channel maintenance that lowers flood risk and provides safe navigation

Policy 1.1.7: Support the Delta Long-Term Management Strategy

Policy 1.1.8: Support efforts to address levee encroachments that are detrimental to levee maintenance.

Goal 2: Delta residents, communities, and public officials manage residual flood risk

Objective 2.1: Prepare for and reduce the impacts to Delta residents and communities when flood inundation occurs.

Policy 2.1.1: Encourage funding, planning, and development of flood risk reduction programs for Delta residents and communities.

Policy 2.1.2: Develop Hazard Management Planning that provides flood risk information, notification, and evacuation routes to residents and businesses.

Recommendations

R-1 Support programs that amplify benefits provided through cooperative agreements between local, State, and federal governments such as interagency agreements and coordination; emergency response; designation of emergency funds; emergency contracting procedures; and emergency permitting procedures.

R-2 Facilitate use of DWR emergency stockpile supplies by levee maintaining agencies in the Delta for levee emergency response, including ability to invoice for cost of materials used.

R-3 Encourage the beneficial reuse of dredged material, as appropriate, for levee maintenance and rehabilitation

R-4 Support funding assistance for existing unincorporated towns within the Delta to improve levees to a 200-year flood protection level.

R-5 Support Community Flood Risk Reduction program grants and any subsequent programs that promote planning for Delta community flood risk reduction.

R-6 Support development of regional or programmatic permitting strategies that reduce the costs and improve the efficiency of regulatory compliance for operations and maintenance activities.

R-7 Improve public and policy maker awareness of the importance of operations and maintenance.

R-8 Encroachments (buildings and minor facilities) proposed for levee rights-of-way should be reported and discouraged.

Legacy Communities

Findings

F-1 Historical and cultural identity are important aspects of the legacy communities

F-2 The legacy communities are where most of the people in the interior Delta reside

F-3 The legacy communities have historically provided services and social opportunities for residents, locations for agricultural processing facilities, and support for agriculture in the Delta

F-4 For the future, legacy communities are looking for ways to expand support for visitors to the Delta

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: A vibrant rural region with thriving small communities that provide opportunities for residents and businesses to succeed

Objective 1.1: Provide opportunities that support the success of Delta communities

Policy 1.1.1: Non-agricultural related development should occur within existing Delta communities in order to ensure the efficient use and conservation of agricultural lands, support open space values, and protect sensitive environmental areas in the Primary Zone.

Policy 1.1.2: Support community and regional planning that addresses concerns over infrastructure and services and provides local economic opportunities for Delta residents, businesses, and visitors

Policy 1.1.3: Promote the sustainability of legacy communities

Goal 2: Preservation and support of heritage values in the Delta

Objective 2.1: Conserve cultural and historical values in the Delta

Policy 2.1.1: Encourage and incentivize adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of existing buildings and other structures within communities to preserve historic structures and districts and improve economic opportunities

Policy 2.1.2: Support public and private programs and projects that preserve historical resources such as the Delta Heritage Area Initiative and proposed Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area

Policy 2.1.3: Acknowledge tribal resources as part of Delta culture and history

Recommendations:

R-1: Local planning documents and policies should utilize the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and other standards and guidelines as prescribed by the State Office of Historic Preservation for historic preservation projects

R-2: Develop and maintain a cultural and historical resources survey

R-3: Encourage placement of directional (or "wayfinding") and interpretive signs that promote tourism and understanding of Delta heritage

Natural Resources

Findings

F-1 The physical environment which existed in the Delta prior to 1850 has been permanently modified through levee construction, drainage of wetlands, and introduction of agriculture.

F-2 Peat soils have subsided largely through oxidation from human activities in the Delta. Some areas are up to 25 feet below sea level.

F-3 Valuable habitat for many birds is included in riparian areas along levees, isolated areas on islands, small channel islands, wetlands, and seasonally flooded agricultural areas.

F-4 The populations of native fish and other aquatic species has declined.

F-5 Natural resources surveys, monitoring, and planning for the Delta have been ongoing and continue to look for ways to balance the need for restored habitats and continued viable agricultural production.

F-6 Integrating restoration with flood-risk management actions is a multi-benefit approach to create some of the specialized habitats in this portion of the river system for water-dependent species.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: Delta natural resources thrive and coexist in an agricultural setting

Objective 1.1: Natural resources are restored and adaptively managed while agricultural lands continue to be farmed and economically viable

Policy 1.1.1: Encourage protection of riparian corridors and landowner voluntary actions to provide wildlife habitat on their property.

Policy 1.1.2: Mandate utilization of the DWR good neighbor checklist by habitat restoration proponents to ensure that impacts on neighboring landowners and local agencies are minimized.

Policy 1.1.3: Ensure that design, construction, and management of wildlife and aquatic habitat incorporate best management practices to minimize vectors and invasive species

Policy 1.1.4: Support programs that landowners can enroll in that provide opportunities to maximize agricultural production and are wildlife friendly

Policy 1.1.5 When restoration projects are being considered, planned, and implemented, promote Delta-wide planning, and selection of suitable lands.

Goal 2: Provide opportunities for Delta ecosystems to be restored and adaptively managed

Objective 2.1: The natural resources of the Delta are enhanced, protected, and enjoyed

Policy 2.1.1: Protect and restore ecosystems and adaptively manage them to minimize impacts from climate change and other threats and support their ability to adapt in the face of stress.

Policy 2.1.2: Participate in invasive species control programs and support programs that address and reduce invasive species in the Delta

Policy 2.1.3: Encourage restoration, wildlife protection, and enhancement on publicly-owned lands first as part of the Delta-wide strategy

Policy 2.1.4: Encourage a multi-benefit approach to restoration that provides ecosystem services, habitat, recreational uses, and flood risk management actions

Recommendations:

R-1 Promote voluntary conservation measures that include developing grants for conservation easements, incentivizing protection of levee habitats and riparian corridors, and finding ways to optimize wildlife habitat when and where crops are not being grown.

R- 2 Encourage land owner incentive programs, including soil subsidence reversal programs or carbon sequestration.

R-3 In some cases, Safe Harbor Agreements (SHAs) may be an appropriate mechanism for providing landowners with coverage for take of covered species. An SHA is a voluntary agreement between private or nonfederal landowners and USFWS.

R-4 Continue place-based (e.g., regional) and subject-based (e.g., topic) work groups chartered to develop content and recommendations on natural resource management in the Delta

R-5 Use adaptive management to improve the scientific understanding and further evaluation of opportunities for restoration projects. Place monitoring data into an open data repository.

Recreation & Access

Findings

F-1: Recreation in the Delta has many forms: boating, fishing, hunting, birding, visiting the historic towns, and agritourism. It provides economic opportunities for residents, businesses, and visitors in the Delta.

F-2: Hunting and fishing are an important part of Delta life with large amounts of the State's hunting and fishing licenses being sold in Delta zip codes.

F-3: Agritourism and heritage tourism are emerging recreation trends with many opportunities

F-4: Most of the existing boating-related opportunities are provided by the Delta's many private marinas. Marinas include support facilities such as restrooms and pump out facilities, launch ramps, boat storage, repair, sales, and rentals.

F-5: The five counties and the U.S. Coast Guard coordinate their water-based activities and reporting through a Delta Officers Intelligence Team.

F-6: Non-motorized boating activities are an important segment of recreation on Delta waterways.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: A thriving Delta recreation sector that provides opportunities for Delta residents and visitors to enjoy the region on both land and water

Objective 1.1: Develop new and improve existing opportunities that support Delta recreationists

Policy 1.1.1: Promote maintenance of, improvements to, and development of private and public recreation facilities consistent with local general plans, zoning regulations and standards.

Policy 1.1.2: Provide opportunities for safe public access to Delta waterways

Policy 1.1.3: Provide opportunities for safe public access to publicly-owned lands for recreation

Policy 1.1.4: Support improved access for bank fishing along State highways, county roads, and other appropriate areas where safe and adequate parking, law enforcement, waste management and sanitation facilities and emergency response can be provided.

Policy 1.1.5: Preserve and develop opportunities for current and future generations to tour and visit historic districts and towns.

Policy 1.1.6: Support ecological, recreational, and agricultural tourism

Goal 2: Delta residents and visitors enjoy a safe experience on Delta waterways

Objective 2: Support and enhance boating safety programs in the Delta

Policy 2.2.1: Promote safe boating programs

Policy 2.2.2: Encourage continued funding of marine patrol programs

Policy 2.2.3: Recognizing existing laws, encourage establishment of Delta-wide law enforcement protocols on local public nuisance and safety issues

Policy 2.2.4: Support Delta-wide communication, coordination, and collaboration on boating and waterway-related programs, including but not limited to, removal of debris and abandoned vessels, invasive species control and containment, and emergency response

Policy 2.2.5: Advocate for the development of funding and implementation strategies by appropriate governing bodies for the surrender and/or removal of marine debris and abandoned vessels from waterways, to minimize navigational and environmental hazards

Goal 3: Delta residents and visitors enjoy a mosaic of land and water-based trails in the Delta

Objective 3.1: Coordinate trail designations that can form the Great California Delta Trail

Policy 3.3.1: Encourage designation of trails as part of multi-benefit projects

Policy 3.3.2: Encourage trail features that reduce trespass on private lands

Recommendations:

R-1 Establish interpretive facilities in the region

R-2 Establish boating destinations such as boat-in campsites

R-3 Improve signage and other information to help visitors explore backroads and waterways while avoiding private property

R-4 Provide interpretation and education on natural resources at recreation facilities

R-5 Offer volunteer opportunities and partnerships for events

R-6 Protect, restore, and interpret heritage resources, including examples of public tribal resources, sites that tell the story of various cultural groups, and industrial, military, water infrastructure, and transportation uses

R-7 Increase opportunities to view wildlife and the natural landscape

R-8 Increase recreation opportunities and diversity on restored public lands and waterways as opportunities arise

R-9 Provide recreation opportunities for visitors of various lifestyles, interests, and budgets.

R-10 Integrate recreation into other area projects, such as water supply, ecosystem restoration, and flood control projects

R-11 Enhance tourism opportunities with websites, maps, and events, and support technical assistance and training for businesses

R-12 Encourage reopening of closed park units

R-13 Ensure public recreation area boundaries are protected with fencing, natural boundaries, and signage to deter trespass onto private property

R-14 Find opportunities for planning the California Great Delta Trail including designations along public parklands and old transportation rights-of-way.

Utilities & Infrastructure

Findings

F-1 Delta residents do not have reliable and sufficient telecommunications access.

F-2 Delta residents, businesses and visitors are served by small community water and sewage disposal systems.

F-3 The Delta road network is vital for emergency response

F-4 The Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel and the Sacramento Deep Water Channel serve as important transportation corridors for movement of products from the Delta to market and into the Delta for local and regional use.

F-5 Existing infrastructure in the Delta is important to entities within and outside the Delta.

F-6 Residents, workers, commercial businesses, and tourism depends on the rail and road infrastructure crisscrossing the Delta in support of California's economy.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: Reliable utilities and infrastructure for Delta residents, businesses, and visitors

Objective 1.1: Continued improvements to utilities and infrastructure in the primary zone to support Delta residents, businesses, and visitors

Policy 1.1.1: Advocate for and develop opportunities for transportation corridor maintenance and improvements that support residential, agricultural, commercial, and recreational users

Policy 1.1.2: Ensure that improvements to existing infrastructure, and construction of new infrastructure in the primary zone of the Delta supports Delta-dependent land uses.

Policy 1.1.3: Ensure that Delta residents, businesses and visitors have access to reliable utilities and promote upgrades to service

Policy 1.1.4: Residential, commercial, and industrial users of water should conform to current water quality standards, effluent standards, and ground water sustainability practices.

Goal 2: Ensure Delta infrastructure and utility projects do not negatively impact communities, agriculture, levee integrity, wildlife, and recreation

Objective 2.1: Improvements to and new placement of utilities and infrastructure in the Delta avoids negative impacts

Policy 2.1.1: Ensure that new utilities supporting areas outside of the Delta primary zone are not located within the Delta primary zone (the Northwest Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rio Vista, as permitted, and the Ironhouse Sanitary District use of Jersey Island for disposal of biosolids are exempt from this policy).

Policy 2.1.2: Restrict regional and statewide infrastructure projects to areas that do not negatively impact agricultural lands and natural resource areas, and promote co-location with other existing compatible facilities.

Recommendations

R-1 Utility companies should consult with communities early in the utility planning process

R-2 Utility projects should stay in existing utility corridors wherever possible

R-3 Service providers need to engage Delta communities to understand their utility and infrastructure needs

R-4 Transportation improvements should connect residents and visitors within the Delta to transportation outside the Delta to support the Delta economy and quality of life